

Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 6 be instructed to confine themselves to the matters committed to conference in accordance with clause 9 of rule XXII of the Rules of the House of Representatives with regard to "high-level radioactive waste" as defined in the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 and other provisions of Federal law.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1078

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1078.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 1, MEDI- CARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2003

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, subject to rule XXII, clause 7(c), I hereby announce my intention to offer a motion to instruct on H.R. 1, the prescription drug bill.

The form of the motion is as follows:

Mr. BISHOP of New York moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 1 be instructed to reject division B of the House bill.

SUPPORT THE SUPPLEMENTAL

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the President has issued a supplemental appropriation request for \$87 billion to go towards our continuing efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Wall Street Journal recently tallied the cost to our country and the economy from the 9-11 attacks. Another similar attack will surely happen if terrorists are left to their own devices.

The terrorist attacks 2 years ago cost this country a lot of money. Here is just a sample: \$78 billion lost in income for families of the victims, \$21 billion to New York City for direct damage costs, \$4 billion for the Victims Fund, \$18 billion to clean up Ground Zero, \$6.4 billion in reduced or lost wages for workers in New York City industries, \$11 billion in lost business to the airline industry, and \$15 billion Federal bailout of the airline industry.

Mr. Speaker, these are just a sample. The total cost, if we add all the ones that were included in the article, is \$355 billion to the American people. Now we are debating this question. This would cost Americans a lot more money if we do not pass this supplemental.

Mr. Speaker, the President has issued a supplemental appropriations request for \$87 billion to go towards our continuing efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Wall Street Journal recently tallied the costs to our country and economy from the 9/11 attacks. Another similar attack will surely happen if terrorists are left to their own devices. The terrorist attacks 2 years ago cost much. Here is just a sample: \$78 billion in lost income for families of the victims; \$21 billion to New York City for direct damage costs; \$4 billion for the Victims' Fund; \$18 billion to clean up Ground Zero; \$700 million to repair the Pentagon; \$6.4 billion in reduced or lost wages for workers in NYC industries; \$150 billion in reduced GDP; \$50 billion in costs to the insurance industry; \$11 billion in lost business to the airline industry; \$15 billion Federal bailout of the airline industry; \$38 billion in costs for new border security, protection against biological threats, and emergency preparedness; \$1.3 billion in costs to State governments for homeland security; and \$33 billion in spending by the private sector for new protective services.

Total cost of these and others is over \$355 billion to the American people. Now we are debating spending \$87 billion to prevent terrorists from taking over a weak nation? If we left Iraq in the condition as it was before, or is now after, the end of the Saddam regime, we would be guilty of allowing terrorists and their power and pocketbooks to fester. This would cost Americans a lot more money, not to mention lives.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to replace the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) and proceed at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

GOLD-PLATING AND WAR PROFITEERING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, the President has asked the United States Congress to borrow another \$87 billion to finance ongoing action in Iraq, and of that, the President is asking the United States Congress to borrow on behalf of the American people \$20.3 billion to engage in an extensive reconstruction of Iraq. There has already been discussion on the floor of the no-bid contracts and the favoritism and extortion prices to Halliburton and other companies, war profiteering, but now there is also, now that we have seen the list, questions about the priorities in a couple of ways.

There are questions about what they are going to spend the money on. On the list is Wifi. A lot of people do not even know what Wifi is. Iraq is a country where I do not think the average Iraqi or even the elite Iraqis own laptop computers. We are going to give emergency spending money, which the American people are going to borrow, to give them Wifi capability in Iraq, when the people in the rural parts of my district do not even have broadband. They have hardly decent telephone service, but we are going to do Wifi in Iraq.

We are going to give them Zip codes in Iraq, an American invention. We are going to give them a national 911. Is that not nice? The American people are going to borrow money to install 911 in Iraq. Why would we do that? Why is that necessary? They did not have 911 before the war. We did not destroy it with bombing. Why they are going to have it now?

Then there is the executive training. We are going to provide \$10,000 for a 4-week course for Iraqi executives that exceeds the cost of sending them to Harvard University for the same period of time, let alone a community college in my district that could do a fine job for a quarter the price, but no, it is not just that. It is the fact that this is gold-plated and out of control.

Here are a couple of examples. Major General David Petraeus, in charge of North Iraq, told a congressional delegation, his engineers said and we priced rebuilding a cement plant for \$15 million. Well, the Iraqis were in kind of a hurry. So they decided to do it on their own and not wait for the \$15 million and the U.S. contract. They did it for \$80,000, a tiny fraction of the price. So at least the American taxpayers did not get gouged for that and did not have to borrow \$15 million to do an \$80,000 job on a cement plant. Maybe that was isolated. Well, unfortunately, no.

We also have another instance, \$25 million to refurbish 20 police stations in Basra and a member of Iraq's governing council kind of laughed at that and said, we could do it for five and still make a bunch of money.

So the American people are going to be asked to borrow \$25 million for a gold-plated contract to do something that would cost something less than five. The American people are being asked to borrow money to build houses in Iraq at a price that is 10 times the value of the average Iraqi house. Maybe it would be better if we give them a little of the wherewithal, some materials and nails and cement, and let them go at it themselves. They have 60 percent unemployment. I think they would be happy to build their own houses.

But that is not the way the Bush administration wants to do this. They want to gold-plate it. They want to make the American people borrow \$20 billion and pay for it the next 30 years, the gold-plate and war profiteer, for the reconstruction of Iraq.